



Paul Alivisatos
Director

October 3, 2011

Dear Friends and Neighbors of Berkeley Lab,

As the autumn begins, I want to take the opportunity to update you on some of Berkeley Lab's most exciting projects and achievements, and to invite you to one of the annual traditions of this season: the Berkeley Lab Open House. There is more information about this community event, which will be on Saturday, October 15, in the letter below.

It is a natural time to reflect on our accomplishments. Perhaps our biggest effort this year has been to identify a second campus so that we can consolidate the many facilities we now lease. This consolidation is important if we are to speed the pace of discovery in biofuels, genetics and supercomputing, to name but a few.

The six finalist sites we've identified—out of more than 20 proposals—include the Richmond Field Station, Oakland's Brooklyn Basin, Alameda Point, Golden Gate Fields, Berkeley Aquatic Park West, and a site that includes parcels in Emeryville and Berkeley.

During these past few months, I've had the pleasure of meeting many of you at the six public meetings held to discuss the proposed second campus. It has been very gratifying to learn how highly the Lab is regarded and to hear why so many of you feel a personal stake in our continued success.

I encourage you to visit our second campus website to learn more about the project:
www.lbl.gov/Community/second-campus.

We plan to announce our preferred second campus site in November.

In my last letter, I touched upon some of the groundbreaking science our researchers have been involved in, including battery development, solar fuels, and climate modeling. Our goal is to create a space where ideas can blossom and take us in the right direction toward reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.

We continued these efforts this year with the opening of our Joint Center for Artificial Photosynthesis and the Advanced Biofuels Process Demonstration Unit, two projects that seek to find sustainable and scalable sources of clean, domestically-produced energy.

ABPDU will allow industry leaders and our researchers—along with others from around the country—to test various theories in the biofuels manufacturing process. JCAP, meanwhile, is designed to find ways to mimic nature by creating artificial ways to harness energy from sunlight. These two research facilities are exciting examples of how we are bringing new and innovative programs to the East Bay, a boost for the economy and the environment.

A no less important ongoing project of ours, particularly in the fall, is our yearly fire-prevention program. Crews have been traversing our Lab hillside property these last few weeks clearing dead brush and trimming trees.

And while we're focusing on things here on Earth, one of our Lab researchers was looking to the sky in August when he came across something spectacular...a supernova. You may have seen the many front-page stories on Peter Nugent's discovery of the supernova soon after it exploded. Peter also spent a Saturday evening at Oakland's Chabot Space & Science Center sharing his findings with hundreds of interested visitors.

We invite you to become a visitor, too, by attending our annual Open House to be held on Saturday, October 15, from 10 AM to 3 PM. This free event will give you the opportunity to meet many of our researchers, have a chance to visit some of our facilities, and learn more about why we think our science "is the greatest on earth."

Because of the strong interest in our Open House and last year's record-breaking attendance, we do ask that you register for the event at: www.lbl.gov/openhouse.

I look forward to meeting many of you there.

To learn even more about Berkeley Lab, we hope you'll consider joining The Friends of Berkeley Lab by visiting: friendsofberkeleylab.lbl.gov or by visiting our website: www.lbl.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Alivisatos', with a stylized, flowing script.

Paul Alivisatos
Director
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory